

THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN, FRIDAY MORNING, AUGUST 24, 1877.

National Republican.

W. J. MURTAGH, PROPRIETOR

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VIRGINIA POLITICS.

There has been some talk about nominating an Administration ticket in Virginia. We are happy to say that the movement has received but little encouragement, and has acquired no strength. We should look upon any such attempt with extreme disfavor, as a measure which would only tend to embarrass and annoy the Administration without accomplishing any good whatever.

We recognize the fact that the present is a transition period in our national politics. We merely state a matter of history when we say that all the old issues which divided the people into parties as Democrats and Republicans are now settled. It follows unavoidably, from the condition of things that both of the old parties are practically dead. Many politicians are yet willing to admit the truth, but when they attempt to rally parties under the old flags, we hear them using party cries which have entirely lost their significance.

Such being the political condition of the country, an attempt to form a party in opposition to the Conservative organization in Virginia would only result in establishing a faction which would not have any great principles to rest upon, but would strive for official power and patronage upon fictitious issues. Thus the people would be needlessly alienated from each other merely that men might gain office, for the contests of factions are tenfold more bitter than those of parties.

We cannot conceive of any good that would come to the State of Virginia from the nomination of an Administration ticket. The President is chiefly interested in re-establishing kindly relations between the people of the North and the South. That object can be accomplished best by a season of political calm, during which the sectional animosities which have heretofore existed may be forgotten and the country prepared for the impartial consideration of the new questions in regard to which the political parties of the future will be formed.

PRISON ABUSES.

The shocking circumstances which attended the death of the late Dr. Blanchard brought to the knowledge of the public the fact that no provision is made by the laws of the District for furnishing persons confined in the station-houses with food or medical attendance. Persons arrested on Saturday are liable to be locked up until Monday morning to suffer the tortures of hunger or disease unless relieved by the unrequited charity of police officers.

Moreover the cells in which the prisoners are confined are constructed without any regard to sanitary considerations, the theory seeming to be that safety is the chief thing to be thought of, and that the health and comfort of the prisoners are matters of little consequence. In short the laws regulating the station-houses of this city are barbarous and disgraceful to the nation which is responsible for them:

In considering this subject it is well enough to remember that good old maxim of the law which teaches that every man is presumed to be innocent until he is proven guilty. Our system of station-houses makes punishment precede trial, and if the trials result in acquittal what adequate remedy is there for the suffering and injury to health which may result from impracticable confinement in pure air or medical attendance if needed?

But even for the guilty the system is wrong, as surely Sir EDWARD COKE in his commentaries declares, a prison is a place of safe custody, not a place of punishment. However great the offense may be with which the prisoner is charged, or even convicted, the principles of our modern enlightened jurisprudence require that he should be kept in custody in such a manner that his health may suffer no injury. This requires the appointment of a medical officer to inspect the condition of the prisoner, and the removal, subject to the Governor's approval.

A Board of aldermen, as at present, except the Mayor, has no power over him.

Fourth A separate body, to be called the board of finance, to be elected by tax and rent payers, and to have the sole right to nominate the appointment of the law and finance officers.

Fifth A detailed plan for securing good management in the board, and a limitation of its authority, and a provision against incurring debt or expense under specified conditions, not likely to arise.

The NATIONAL REPUBLICAN, being the only newspaper now published in Washington, is the best advertising medium in Washington.

The Pennsylvania Democrats having spoken, it will next be the turn of the New Jersey Bourbons, who hold their pow-wow on September 12.

LAVING a sewer through D street, between Ninth and Tenth streets, appears to be slow work. The residents are disgusted with the earth-bank fronting their doors.

THE stone coping and decorated pillars on the western border of the Capitol grounds will give a fine finish to that side of the park, and present an attractive appearance from a distance.

After deliberating a year and a half the commission reported certain amendments intended to accomplish the desired result. We find them admirably summarized by the Buffalo Express, as follows:

First The delegation of municipal government to the people of the cities themselves, free from legislative interference.

Second A mayor clothed with general supervisory powers, the power to appoint the other executive officers except those two (finance and law) and the power to veto bills, and the power of removal, subject to the approval of the legislature.

The fourth proposition is not altogether a novel one in the American Government, the principle having been incorporated in several of the State constitutions as originally framed. But the tide of Democratic progress swept them all away. It would seem, from the experience of New York, that we have gone too far, and that we are likely to retrograde in our steps to save the social fabric from being dissolved by excessive taxation. The plan proposed by the Commission is one of the most effective measures of municipal reform which has ever been devised in this country.

OUR NAVIGATION LAWS.

The National Board of Trade, now in session at Milwaukee, is composed of the representatives of the Chambers of Commerce of the various cities throughout the Union. Its action in regard to commercial matters, therefore, entitled to great weight, being the expression of the views of intelligent, practical business men from all parts of the country.

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THE COWARDLY DEMOCRATS OF PENNSYLVANIA.

From the Philadelphia Times:

It is better that the conversion confided to a man of the church of faith on these subjects after the fashion of the Democrats of Maine. But it was deemed well to go further, and in going further it made a mess of it. The great question of the election at the polls was, how far should the church make the most thoughtful consideration and any inference in respect to it should have been made with the people. A sensible conclusion, or the cautious conclusion, by the people themselves, is that they carry out the views of the Democratic party. When the party opponents of the President are constrained to do so, they make a virtual confession that there is no real ground of opposition. Their declaration of their election at the polls is to the effect that they will no longer support the President as President. By consenting that he shall serve his four years, and by claiming his policy as their Democratic thunder, they have given up their right to be called the friends of his Administration.

This measure is good so far as it goes, but it should be supplemented by such a modification of the tariff as would enable our ship-builders to import from abroad all the materials they need. Our country ought to be one of the leading ship-building and ocean-carrying countries on the globe, and it is only an unwise and artificial system of legislation which has ruined our shipping interests along with our internal industries. People are, however, beginning to learn that it is best not to interfere with the operation of the natural laws regulating these subjects, and we may, therefore expect to see

the entire system of protecting special occupations by the payment of bounties swept away.

THE SICK MAN OF TURKEY HAS RECOVERED. IT IS THE CZAR OF ALL THE RUSSIANS WHO FEELS INDISPOSED AT PRESENT.

THE PRESIDENT'S TITLE.

CHARLES A. DANA, yesterday published the following in his dirty paper, the *Sun*:

"I am deeply grieved to witness the anguish growing in our country. Here is Mr. HAYES, levelled by a knot of people who call themselves his friends, and who made him President through their influence, holding the evidence which would have demonstrated that another man was elected to the office. In writing, signed by foolish people who prey to his name the title, 'His Excellency.' At the time of his election, he was a widower, his deceased wife, signified by persons from different States thus: 'To His Excellency HETHERTON R. HAYES, Esq., of the State of New York.'

MINISTER LOWELL, on the occasion of his presentation to King ALFONSO, omitted, through etiquette, to make any allusion to Cuba. It is an unpleasant topic in Madrid now, and Mr. Lowell, knowing this very properly, deferred the utterance of his views upon this subject to a more opportune occasion.

The organs of the Administration are out of phase with Democratic speakers, newspapers and manufacturers in keeping up the 'British and American' way of life.

Oh no. 'The cry of "fraud" is the exclusive property of "Democrat" speakers, newspapers and conventions,' and they have a perfect right to carry it with them wherever they go, even to Loudon-street jail and the State prison.

A RICK LADY IN NINETY, Mrs. Esmara Cervantes, who visited New York a year or two ago, met with an accident at Seville recently which might have been very serious, but she recovered very well, and is still walking.

Most REV. J. R. BAYLEY, Archdeacon of Baltimore, returned from Europe last Tuesday. The health of the Archdeacon is not much improved by his trip to Europe, and the passengers, irrespective of creed, were quite solicitous for his welfare. He proceeded from New York to Boston, where he remained for a week.

A GRIMMAY, a widower with seven grown-up daughters, left home a few days ago for a neighboring city, and wrote back that he had some news which would surprise them. The seven grown-up daughters had an awful time till he returned—asked one of them if she was married, and she said, 'I married her with six children that you married?' 'O, I married her to another man.'

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THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES has already voted the bill to add the word 'United' to the name of the United States, and to no addition. This matter was settled in the first Congress with great deliberation. A committee of the House recommended that the word 'United' be added to the name of the State, and the bill was referred to the Committee on Territories, and passed.

A GOLDEN CADET for West Point from New York city, and appointed upon his merits after a competitive examination by a Democratic Congressman. Who would have believed that this young man, ten years old, would be admitted to the young man, and to JOHN MORSE, who has sent his fifty dollars to defray the expenses of his outfit for the academy.

THE UNION is to be a Union must, as President HAYES well says, be a union of hearts.

The policy he is pursuing will establish such a unity. Owing to wise course there is to-day greater harmony between the North and South than has existed within the last thirty years. For years before the war it is well known that slavery caused a great deal of bad feeling, and that the executive power should be vested in a President of the United States, and the country prepared for the impartial consideration of the new questions in regard to which the political parties of the future will be formed.

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